

PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing power consumption of a decoder in a communication system, comprising:
 - estimating a quality metric of a channel associated with a segment of a received signal;
 - determining a quality metric threshold;
 - delimiting an interval ~~in accordance with a modified~~ based in part on the quality metric threshold; and
 - decoding the segment when the estimated quality metric is outside of the interval.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the estimating a quality metric comprises estimating a signal-to-noise ratio.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the estimating a quality metric of a channel associated with a segment of a received signal comprises estimating a quality metric of a channel associated with a slot of a received signal.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the determining a quality metric threshold comprises:
 - determining a data rate of the segment;
 - determining a number of segments received; and
 - determining a quality metric threshold in accordance with the data rate and the number of segments.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein delimiting an interval comprises:
 - determining a real-valued parameter Δ_0 ; and
 - defining the interval in accordance with a formula $(-\infty, TS + \Delta_0)$, where TS is the quality metric threshold.

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